

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-9 and 24-25 have been canceled by this amendment since those claims are drawn to Group I as defined in the restriction requirement as described in the office action and hereinbelow. Claim 21 has been amended by deletion of the phrase “or Vioxx®” and by replacing the term “Celebrex®” with the generic equivalent term celecoxib. Support for this amendment is in the specification as originally filed, including original claim 21. Claim 23 has been amended by deletion of the phrase “or Vioxx®” and by replacing the term “Celebrex®” with the generic equivalent term celecoxib. Support for this amendment is in the specification as originally filed, including original claim 23. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121

Restriction to one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. § 121 has been required.

- I. Claims 1-9 and 24-25, drawn to a method of treating osteoarthritis with an estrogen agonist/antagonist compound of Formula (I).
- II. Claims 10-23, drawn to a kit to treat osteoarthritis comprising certain estrogen agonist/antagonists.

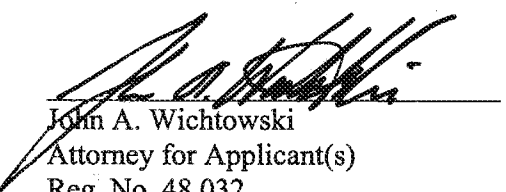
In addition, Applicant has been required to elect a single species of an estrogen agonist/antagonist and a COX-2 inhibitor.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute group II, claims 10-23. Applicants also elect the estrogen agonist/antagonist species (-)-cis-6-phenyl-5-[4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-ol and the COX-2 inhibitor species celecoxib (Celebrex®). The elected estrogen agonist/antagonist species (-)-cis-6-phenyl-5-[4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-ol reads on claims 10-13 and 18-23. The elected COX-2 inhibitor species celecoxib (Celebrex®) reads on claims 18 and 20-23.

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks should place the application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable response is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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